

For Immediate Release: February 22, 2012

Contact:

Jodie Tabak (414) 286-8504

Mayor Tom Barrett issued the following statement regarding DPI's Waiver Request:

"I support State Superintendent Tony Evers' No Child Left Behind waiver request. I firmly believe that all schools receiving public funds should be held to the same school achievement standards. Last week, in giving my annual State of the City Address, I endorsed the Milwaukee Common Report Card. My goal is to use the Report Card to improve performance in all our schools and to provide Milwaukee families with more quality K-12 options.

"The intent of the State Superintendent's waiver request is to bring common and shared standards to all of the Wisconsin's publicly financed schools. That effort will align with the goals of the Milwaukee Common Report Card.

"All Milwaukee schools – MPS, Choice and Charter - are funded with tax dollars. In Milwaukee, property tax payers continue to pay a disproportionate share of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program's costs.

"It is time that all publicly financed schools are held accountable under the same achievement measures and I will respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Education grant the waiver request."